



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Africa in the global economy Uncertain future in turbulent times

5 - 6 December 2024, Bonn

Africa stands at a critical juncture in its role in the global economy. While the effects of the pandemic now appear to have been gradually overcome, increasing geopolitical rivalry, growing protectionism, particularly in the Global North, and climate change are playing their parts in many places on the continent. The regional repercussions of these developments, however, can vary greatly and depend heavily on differences in country-specific adaptability. For example, the continent's wealth of resources has recently aroused desires among external partners, thereby fueling concerns of becoming a pawn in the hands of major trade and financial players in the global economy. At the same time, there is also an opportunity that the renewed interest could facilitate integration into global value chains (GVCs) and strengthen the voice of African countries at multilateral and bilateral levels.

African countries themselves have agreed to renewed efforts at ambitious reforms for economic prosperity by establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA is linked to the hope of promoting trade in industrial goods, agriculture and services within Africa and thereby improving opportunities for moving up the value chain for exports to the rest of the world as well. A continent-wide market is expected to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), promote learning-by-doing and create economies of scale. At the same time, external conditions are changing. The recently proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and due diligence laws by the European Union, as well as the Inflation Reduction Act put in place by the United States, spurred fears of further marginalization of Africa, but could also provide new entry points for a closer and more active integration with Northern markets.

In light of these dynamics, effective policy-making that serves the continent's interest requires a profound understanding of their (medium to long-run) implications. This conference aims to provide a platform for discussing novel research findings related to the (formal) economic relationships within Africa and with external partners.

The conference is jointly organized by the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Boston University, the Economic Research Forum (ERF), the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at University of Cape Town, and the Research Network Sustainable Global Supply Chains.

Program

Thursday, 5 December 2024

09:00 – 09:45	Check-in and welcome coffee
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Room Time	Auditorium (“Central Asia”)
09:45 – 10:00	Welcome notes (plenary) Clara Brandi (IDOS)
10:00 – 11:00	Keynote 1 (plenary) Regional integration and services in African value chains Ben Shepherd (Developing Trade Consultants) Moderator: Clara Brandi (IDOS)

Room Time	Auditorium (“Central Asia”)	Seminar room (“West Asia”)	Seminar room (“East Asia”)
	Session 1: Agriculture production and trade	Session 2: FDI & local impacts	Session 3: External (policy) shocks
11:15 – 12:15	<i>Chair: Tilman Altenburg</i> Africa’s export effects of the EU and USA food safety regulations Olayinka Kareem (U Hohenheim) The Impact of Climate Change on Cocoa Production in West Africa: Strategies for Sustainable Growth Noncedo Vutula (U Cape Town)	<i>Chair: Christoph Sommer</i> FDI In Cote d’Ivoire: Are local firms better off? Osaretin Olurotimi (U Arizona) Building linkages between micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and multinational companies from the Global South: The case of Southern Africa Vito Amendolagine (U Foggia)	<i>Chair: Faizel Ismail</i> Inflation inequality in Egypt and Tunisia amid the Russia-Ukraine war Vladimír Hlásny (UN ESCWA) End of development-friendly trade policy: How could AGOA expiry harm Sub-Saharan Africa? Zoryana Olekseyuk (IDOS)

12:15 – 13:45	Lunch break: Buffett in the foyer
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Room Time	Auditorium (“Central Asia”)	Seminar room (“West Asia”)	Seminar room (“East Asia”)
	Session 4: Digitalization & services trade	Session 5: GVC determinants	Session 6: External markets & structural transformation
	<i>Chair: Dominique Njinkeu</i> Digital Exports and Innovation Resilience: Firm-level Evidence from Africa Fandi Achmad (U Oxford)	<i>Chair: Nora Aboushady</i> Global Value Chain Participation and Real Effective Exchange Rates: Insights from Tunisia Insaf Guedidi (U Tunis)	<i>Chair: Jann Lay</i> LDC Graduation and its Effects on Structural Transformation: Evidence from Developing Countries Michael Mbate (Network of Impact Evaluation Researchers in Africa)

14:00 – 15:30	<p>The Brussels effect in Africa: Is it beneficial for intra-regional trade in digital services? Martina Ferracane (EUI)</p> <p>What's behind digital transformation in Africa? Hildegunn Nordås (Örebro U)</p>	<p>Greenfield investment and value-chain integration: Evidence from Africa Anirudh Shingal (SPJIMR Mumbai)</p>	<p>The Role of Exports for Income and Job Creation in Sub-Saharan African Countries: New Evidence using the Africa Supply and Use Tables Database Gaaitzen de Vries (U Groningen)</p>
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		<p>Session 7: Domestic/ industrial policy <i>Chair: Rainer Thiele</i></p> <p>On Competition Policy and Global Value Chains: A de jure and de facto Analysis Chahir Zaki (U Orléans)</p> <p>Government Demand and Firm Growth Filippo Santi (U Bologna)</p>	<p>Session 8: Multinationals & labor market <i>Chair: Matthias Busse</i></p> <p>Creating and capturing value in global production networks: new comparative evidence on wages and working conditions in apparel export firms in Kenya and Ethiopia Florian Schaefer (King's College London)</p> <p>The Impact of Industrial Parks on Local Labour Markets: Evidence from Ethiopia Tevin Tafese (GIGA)</p>
15:45 – 16:45	No session here		

Coffee break in the foyer

Room Time	Auditorium ("Central Asia")
17:15 – 18:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Policy debate (plenary)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Africa in the global economy - quo vadis? <i>Moderator: Tilman Altenburg (IDOS)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Panellists: Gaaitzen de Vries (U Groningen), Faizel Ismail (U Cape Town), Abbi Kedir (AERC / U Sheffield), Birgit Pickel (BMZ)</i></p>

19:30 Conference Dinner @
Brauhaus Bönnsch (Sterntorbrücke 4, 53111 Bonn)

Friday, 6 December 2024

Room Time	Auditorium ("Central Asia")	Seminar room ("West Asia")	Seminar room ("East Asia")
	Session 9: Gravity and beyond <i>Chair: Tim Vogel</i>	Session 10: FDI determinants <i>Chair: Matthias Busse</i>	Session 11: Agriculture GVCs <i>Chair: Lukas Kornher</i>
09:00 – 10:00	<p>The trade effects of regional integration in Africa: New methods, new insights? Magdalene Silberberger (U Witten/Herdecke)</p> <p>Trade agreements and informality in Africa Joschka Wanner (U Würzburg)</p>	<p>Seaport efficiency and foreign direct investment in Africa Enock Ayesu (Kwame Nkrumah U)</p> <p>Attractiveness of foreign direct investment: The role of the geopolitics of African countries Joseph Keneck-Massil (U Yaoundé II)</p>	<p>The role of industry associations in export performance: Comparative cases of citrus and wine in South Africa Shingie Chisoro (U Johannesburg)</p> <p>Trends and Evolution of Global Value Chains in Food and Agriculture: Implications for Food Security and Nutrition Martin Paul Tabe-Ojong (World Bank)</p>

Coffee break in the foyer

Room Time	Auditorium ("Central Asia")
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Keynote 2 (plenary)</p> <p>Africa's participation in global value chains, its role for jobs, and scope for upgrading Deborah Winkler (World Bank)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Tilman Altenburg (IDOS)</i></p>

11:30 – 13:00 Lunch break: Buffett in the foyer

Room Time	Auditorium ("Central Asia")	Seminar room ("West Asia")	Seminar room ("East Asia")
	Session 12: Trade policy modelling	Session 13: CBAM	Session 14: Trade policy choices
	<i>Chair: Zoryana Olekseyuk</i>	<i>Chair: Clara Brandi</i>	<i>Chair: Dominique Njinkeu</i>
13:15 – 14:15	Trade Flow Implications of the AfCFTA Abbi Kedir (AERC / U Sheffield)	Distributional effects of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Johannes Gallé (MCC Berlin)	Mapping Africa's Import Product Dependency Socrates Majune (U Nairobi)
	Reassessing the Benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area: The Case of Nigeria and Learning-by-Exporting Heini Suominen (U Helsinki)	Carbon Emission Intensities in CBAM and Africa's Trade Competitiveness Obindah Gershon (Covenant U)	Analysis of African citizens' preference for opening up domestic markets Mathieu Juliot Mpabe Bodjongo (U Dschang)
		Session 15: South Africa in focus	Session 16: Trade facilitation/ infrastructure
		<i>Chair: Faizel Ismail</i>	<i>Chair: Frederik Stender</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<i>No session here</i>	Trade and the Gender Wage Gap in South Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Cape Town and eThekweni Valentine Madzudzo (Stellenbosch U)	Adaptive Convergence: The Shaping of China and EU Financing Strategies in African Infrastructure Valeria Lauria (EUI)
		Floods and international market access: Evidence from South Africa Justyna Jantos (U Göttingen)	Revisiting the Impact of Trade Facilitation Measures in Africa: Structural Gravity Approach Mengistu Wassie (ZEF Bonn)

Room Time	Auditorium ("Central Asia")
15:35 – 15:45	Concluding remarks (plenary) Clara Brandi (IDOS)